

**Comments on texts resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission  
Report – January 2005 Meeting  
Submitted by the United States of America**

**Blue Tongue – Chapter 2.2.13**

The United States commends the thorough work done by the Code Commission and supports all the suggested changes. The United States takes this opportunity to make one specific comment described below:

**Proposed OIE text:**

Article 2.2.13.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for bluetongue virus (BTV) shall be ~~100~~ 60 days.

The global BTV distribution ~~historically has been shown to be~~ is currently between latitudes of approximately ~~50~~40°N and 35°S ~~but is known to be expanding in the northern hemisphere.~~

**The United States recommends the following text:**

Article 2.2.13.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for bluetongue virus (BTV) shall be ~~100~~ 60 days.

The global BTV distribution ~~historically has been shown to be~~ is currently between latitudes of approximately ~~50~~40°N and 35°S ~~but is known to be expanding in the northern hemisphere.~~

**Rationale**

The phrase in the second sentence of this Article which reads "... known to be expanding in the northern hemisphere ..." is an inaccurate generalization. The only region in which Blue Tongue viruses appear to have moved northward into new territory is in central (Mediterranean) Europe and eastern Europe (the Balkans and slightly to the north from there). The Balkan area would appear to be the only new area of viral activity. Periodic incursions into Greece via the Grecian islands and into Turkey have occurred in the past. The recent documentation of movement into the Iberian Peninsula is not without precedence and, like the activity seen in Greece, should be regarded as part of the normal expansion and contraction [ebb and flow] of an arbovirus/vector from its enzootic focus. There does not appear to be northward movement in the Western Hemisphere and there is no indication that it is happening in Asia.